

Australian Hydrographic Office - Wollongong Media Release

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A Celebratory Dinner to commemorate the defeat of the Franco-Spanish fleet by the Royal Navy Fleet off Cape Trafalgar - 21st October 1805

An very historic event occurred in Wollongong on 21 Oct 05. 14 officers from the Royal Australian Navy's Australian Hydrographic Service celebrated a battle that occurred 200 years ago. The Battle of Trafalgar, although quaint for the average Australian, is of much relevance to our nation. The 100 years of relative peace resulting from the battle gave Britain's outlying colonies freedom from invasion from other naval nations of the time.

Uniquely in the world, Australia occupies a landmass with no land borders, one basic language and a strong democratic tradition. This fortunate set of circumstances, which makes Australia a truly 'lucky country', can be traced back to the battle of Britain's navy over the combined naval forces of Spain and France 200 years ago.

The dinner, held at Wollongong's *'The Ritz Restaurant'* was also the inaugural dinner of



the Australian Hydrographic Office Wardroom Mess. An English-style menu with accompanying wines was served. After dinner toasts (The Queen, toast of the day, Lord Nelson) and a speech on the importance of the Battle followed the 'passing of the port'.



Photo: Shows President of the Mess Dinner CAPT Robert Ward, RAN and CAPT Bruce Kafer, CSC, RAN (the former Hydrographer of Australia) prior to the dinner.

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